

From: Shon Burton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 7:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

A plea to the powers that be;

my name is Shon Burton. I am a co-signer on Dan Kegel's "Open letter to the DOJ"; therefore I'll keep my own comments brief. I am a founder and principal of two technology companies, a software company and a service company. I also have over 10 years of in-depth experience with Microsoft products. I was formerly a Microsoft Certified Professional, and have been offered employment with Microsoft in the past.

I feel that the proposed settlement in the DOJ vs. Microsoft case is a gratuitous waste of time and taxpayer money. The settlement is insufficient and will not prevent the obvious and inexcusable anti-competitive behavior that Microsoft continues to blatantly display.

Microsoft will stop at nothing. After the initial DOJ scrutiny regarding Internet Explorer, Microsoft made harmful design changes to nearly all of its products so that Internet Explorer would be required for those products to function. In doing so, Microsoft compromised the security and reliability of its own core products (Windows, Office, Back Office) in an effort to force Internet Explorer onto every system.

This is not an isolated incident. It is happening continually with various other "stowaway" components that Microsoft pushes onto the unwitting user in the form of "software dependencies" often to the detriment of the core product itself.

Microsoft purposely works to sabotage 3rd party software inter-operability in an effort to force users of one Microsoft product or service into using additional Microsoft products and services. Microsoft continues to work against established open standards (W3C, IEEE, IETF) in an effort to gain further dominance in the Internet and other emerging markets.

Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior stifles innovation and negates forward progress in the technology industry, and the world. Decisive action must be taken to stop it.

In closure, I would like to thank those who have taken the time to read this and all other public comments. I appreciate the effort that is being put forth to insure a just and proper resolution in this matter.

Sincerely,

Shon Burton

President
Dataverse Corporation